



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **WM-4**

June 6, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2756

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN FUNDING
A PHASE II STUDY TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE
THE IMPACTS OF URBAN RUNOFF ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Authorize the Director of Public Works to enter into a new agreement with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council to provide \$75,000 to fund part of the cost for Phase II of a stormwater monitoring study.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This action is being recommended to assist the Watershed Council in continuing to fund a study to evaluate impacts of urban stormwater runoff on groundwater quality and to evaluate the effectiveness of urban Best Management Practices (BMP). The study will evaluate the potential impacts of urban stormwater infiltration on groundwater quality and drinking water supplies in the Los Angeles area. The study is being managed by the Watershed Council. By Board motion on February 20, 2001, your Board approved \$50,000 to fund part of the first phase of this study. Phase I of this multiagency study has been fully funded and sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District, City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, United States Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power, Water Replenishment District of Southern California, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Corps of Engineers, and the City of Santa Monica.

Phase I was conducted to learn more about the groundwater quality implications of infiltrating stormwater on site and to demonstrate multiagency cooperation. The successful creation of this coalition and progress to date has resulted in the Watershed Council receiving two grants for nearly \$2 million from Calfed and Proposition 13 to begin Phase II of this study. Use of these funds requires a local funding commitment. Phase II will be a continuation of the initial study and will be expanded to add an additional six study sites for water quality monitoring. Phase II will also develop a scope of work for a broader long-term study, which will look at the feasibility and effectiveness of infiltration devices and the water quality implications of infiltrating urban runoff.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Stormwater Permit mandates the County of Los Angeles to develop various programs for improving stormwater quality runoff. The results of this study will help to develop effective on-site retention facilities and BMPs within the County in order to reduce pollution and contaminants in stormwater runoff and also to augment local water supplies. This study is a continuation of what is hoped to be a long-term \$10 million Bureau of Reclamation study that will partner with local agencies in assessing the potential water supply augmentation opportunities of stormwater runoff.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Organizational Effectiveness. It involves collaboration across functional and jurisdictional boundaries of agencies within the County of Los Angeles to provide efficiency of services leading to improvements in the quality of life in the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total cost to the County is \$75,000. Sufficient funds to cover the County's payment for this study are available in the Fiscal Year 2001-02 Flood Control District budget.

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FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Public Works will be part of the technical advisory committee that will be overseeing the study for the Watershed Council. An agreement between the Watershed Council and Public Works, similar to the original agreement for Phase I, will be prepared by Public Works and approved as to form by County Counsel.

CONTRACT PROCESS

The Watershed Council initially solicited Public Works to participate financially in the study. The Watershed Council will administer the study. Public Works will continue to assist in providing technical guidance throughout the study.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no inverse effect on current services.

CONCLUSION

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel